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**MACRO CELL FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT PHYSICAL LAYER  
INTERFACE**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A macro cell is provided for an integrated  
5 circuit design having an input-output (IO) region  
with a plurality of IO buffer cells physically  
dispersed with other cells in IO slots along an  
interface portion of the IO region. The macro cell  
includes a plurality of macro cell IO signal slots  
10 that are physically dispersed so as to substantially  
align with the IO buffer cells in the interface  
portion. The macro cell also includes an interface  
definition having a plurality of interface IO signal  
nets, which are routed to corresponding ones of the  
15 plurality of macro cell signal slots. The macro cell  
is adapted to be instantiated as a unit in the  
integrated circuit design.